
Planned Parenthood Advocates of Michigan

March 5, 2015

Dear Members of the Senate Transportation Committee,

Hi, I am Amanda West, Director of Government Relations for Planned Parenthood Advocates of Michigan.

At Planned Parenthood we provide services to 80,000 men, women and families per year. Our health centers specialize in family planning, adoption referrals, STI testing and treatment, prenatal programs, breast cancer screenings, counseling and other medical services. For the majority of our patients, we are the only health care provider they see in an entire year.

We are an organization that provides practical support to pregnant women and outreach to at-risk populations, and we promote life-saving programs and projects that are alternatives to abortion.

Planned Parenthood has repeatedly opposed the concept of allowing a special interest organization that does not provide any services to use the state to fundraise so they can promote their ideological viewpoint.

However, HB84 suggests that any nonprofit organization that provides practical support to pregnant women and outreach to at-risk populations could share in the fund.

So it would appear that Planned Parenthood is eligible to apply for this fund.

Except for the fact that the "Choose Life Fund" is completely controlled by Right to Life. So in reality, the money goes to Right to Life and they decide who gets the proceeds, regardless of the parameters set forth in this bill.

If the state is going to promote a fundraising scheme for Right to Life, then you should include in this bill a similar fund to promote the ideology of the majority of Michiganders who support a woman's access to comprehensive health care coverage.

And finally, if this body were truly interested in reducing the abortion rate in Michigan, you would turn your attention to ensuring that women had unobstructed access to birth control, family-planning services and affordable healthcare.

Thank you.



Amanda West
Director of Government Relations
Planned Parenthood Advocates of Michigan